OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Queer Language.

When the English tongue we speak
Why is "break" not rhymed with "freak?"
Will you tell me why it 's true
We say "sew," but likewise "few;"
And the maker of a verse
Cannot cap his "horse with "worse?"
"Beard" sounds not the same as "heard;"
"Cord" is different from "word;"
"Cow" is cow, but "low" is low;
"Shoe" is never rhymed with foe."
Think of "hose" and "dose" and "lose;"
And of "goose"—and yet of "choose."
Think of "comb" and "tomb" and "bomb;"
"Doll" and "roll," and "home" and "some."
And since "pay" is rhymed with "say,"
Why not "paid" with "said," I pray?
We have "blood" and and "food" and "good;"
"Mould" is not pronounced like "could."
Wherefore "done," but "gone" and "lone?"
Is there any reason known?
And, in short, it seems to me
Sounds and letters disagree.
—Edwin L. Sabin, in St. Nicholas.

Ladybug's Mission.

Who could have guessed that the British Government would ever wish to send to South Africa twenty thousand of those seemingly useless little ladybugs or ladybirds, whom we have all told a dozen times to

Fly away home,
Your house is on fire, your children will burn.

But this is actually the fact, and the ladybugs will soon be on their way across the sea from our own country to Cape Colony, just because they are better able than any other creature to destroy certain insects which are spoiling the crops there. Not many years ago large ladybugs were brought to California from Australia for this same reason, and they earned $20,000 for the State by killing the queer beetles that had begun to injure the grapes.

The ladybug, as we see, is a wonderfully helpful insect, even though so tiny. She is a kind of beetle, and is found in many parts of the world. Her little, round body, only an eighth of an inch in diameter, is sometimes red, sometimes yellow, always bright colored, and often covered with tiny black spots. In France the children call her the "insect of the good God," because of her work for the farmers in ridding their crops of dangerous bugs.

"Your ladybird is always hungry," the London Express tells us, "feeding upon the eggs of other insects, and upon the insects themselves if they are small enough to be swallowed by a specimen so diminutive as the ladybird itself. The ladybird lays a string of tiny yellow eggs. She is cunning enough always to lay these amid a colony of plant lice.

"As soon as the larvae hatch out, looking like miniature alligators, they begin to eat, and being carnivorous they fall upon the tiny insects around them. In the five or six weeks that they are growing up they destroy a whole plant-lice settlement. Then they roll up as cocoons, and hang suspended, head downward, in nearly any available nook. They come out of the shell full-grown ladybirds, and keep on their carnivorous career.

"Curiously enough, the ladybird has few enemies. Its only means of defence is a pungent liquid, which is not poisonous, is not really of a bad odor and probably frightens none of its haphazard foes. When it is frightened it draws its feet up close under its body and sticks tightly to the under side of a leaf. Presently, if nothing alarming happens, it spreads its small wings and flies away, all the time watching sharply out of its brilliant black eyes. The ladybird really has two pairs of wings, although it seldom gets credit for them. The front pair fold over and form part of the hard shell that incases its body. The hind wings are used for short flights.

"Nearly every insect which destroys the crops is the prey of the ladybird. Many of these are the ladybird's first cousins,such as blister beetles, squash beetles, bugs, cabbage beetles, weevils, bark-boring beetles, flour beetles and bean beetles, all of which belong to coleoptera order."

The Children of Japan.

"The little children in Japan
Are fearfully polite,"

Travelers have many times assured us. Many of us probably hold a mental picture of stately juveniles making obeisances to one another while saying in elegant Japanese: "After your august self, honorable friend!"

In reality there is nothing at all of the prig about a Japanese child. His good breeding is inborn and so much a part of himself that all his little courtesies are instinctive, and, therefore, entirely unaffected. This exquisite politeness is distinctly traceable, first, to the national trait of self-abnegation. Every Japanese man, woman and child considers that his greatest privilege is "to die for my emperor," if by so doing even a minimum of benefit is conferred upon the sovereign and hence upon the country. Then, it is every one's duty to be most considerate of his parents. This implies, of course, uncomplaining obedience to father and mother; and obedience is not looked upon as a virtue, but as something common decency demands. Another requirement is this: no matter what one's troubles or physical pains, no evidence of them must be seen in one's action, speech, or even in facial expression, for we have no right to burden others with our troubles. It is exceedingly "bad form." And, finally, one must be good for the sake of being good, not for the sake of reward.

If, as Buddha, said, "Hatred ceases not by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love," then, argue Japanese parents, love brings forth love and reciprocal service; and they treat their children accordingly.

It is easy to understand, then, why Japanese little ones are the happiest and best behaved children in the world; for a child is, of course, a reflection of his environment.

Although Japanese children are laughter loving, fond of play, and free and independent in action, yet they assume responsibilities just as soon as they emerge from babyhood. It is a common sight in Japan to see fastened on the back of a very little boy or girl a tiny baby brother or sister that is, perhaps, but a few days old. In summer time the baby is held by means of a broad sash (obi) that ties him to his nurse. When out of doors in winter one thickly padded garment snugly secures them both from the cold, making them appear like a two-headed being, as Genjiro Yeto puts it, in a recent leter from Tokio.

On the whole, this seems a sensible way to carry a baby, for the attendant's arms and hands are left free. One often sees these little nurses flying kites, snowballing or playing battledore and shuttlecock, and, at the same time, singing lullabies to the wee specimens of humanity on their backs. As Japanese babies are noted for seldom crying, they must be perfectly satisfied to be thus jounced about the greater part of their baby lives, for children in Japan are very hardy and stay out of doors most of the day, no matter how cold it may be, and think nothing of having the wee brother or sister to care for constantly.—Good Housekeeping.

Every breeder of improved stock ought to advertise in The Progressive Farmer. It is read weekly by 40,000 farmer folk and they will buy the best.

"PIGGIE'S TROUBLES."

This is a neat booklet that should be read by all hog raisers as well as stockmen in general.

Knowing of the enormous loss of swine from cholera, the Zenner Disinfectant Company, 116 Bates Street, Detroit, Michigan, have secured very valuable information on this subject from several of the best known specialists of bacterial diseases, as well as most successful swine breeders in the country. It contains a list of diseases swine are likely to contract, and gives treatment for each one, telling how to distinguish diseases by the symptoms, and what to do to relieve the trouble.

It is neatly printed, compact, convenient in size, and written in language that the farmer will easily comprehend. Every owner of swine should have one of these books, and there is no reason why one should not be kept for ready reference, for the publishers offer to send one absolutely free to the readers of this publication who ask for one. It is worth dollars to every one who has sick and ailing hogs, no matter what the trouble may be.

The preparation, Zenoleum, has been found to give most satisfactory results as a disinfectant against hog-cholera and killing nearly all kinds of external parasites on farm stock, as well as for many internal diseases. It is a remedy for mange, eczema, rash and other skin diseases of cattle, horses and sheep, as well as swine. It is very reasonable in price and is used and recommended by veterinarians generally. Write for one of these books mentioning this paper, and it will be sent free and post paid.

When writing advertisers, please mention this paper.